

REMARKS

Claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 are pending herein. By this Supplemental Amendment, claims 2, 7 and 12 are amended into independent form, and claims 1, 6 and 11 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter. Reconsideration in view of the above-amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein). Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

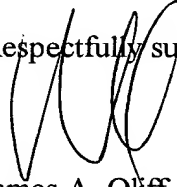
Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 6 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Neuhard (U.S. Patent No. 6,335,795). Claims 1, 6 and 11 are canceled. Thus, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Furthermore, allowable claims 2, 7 and 12 are amended into independent form to include the features of the base claims. In view of the foregoing, claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 are now in condition for allowance. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RSE

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: September 30, 2004

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